Snowdrops - The Plantlife of Ratho

Galanthus • 2023-03-11 • Contact (FB) • Latest PDF • Folder of all Sections

• There's actually only one wild snowdrop, however some other types are planted about in parks that are worth noting, and also in gardens for comparison.

• They can be distinguished at a distance by the colour and width of their leaves, along with finer details such as whether the leaves have pleat (fold) lines or wrap at their bases, and the side-markings on the flower.

• It may be there are others that can be sent in to add to them.

Section Chooser

• Leaves Blue-Grey or else Green

Blue-Grey Leaved

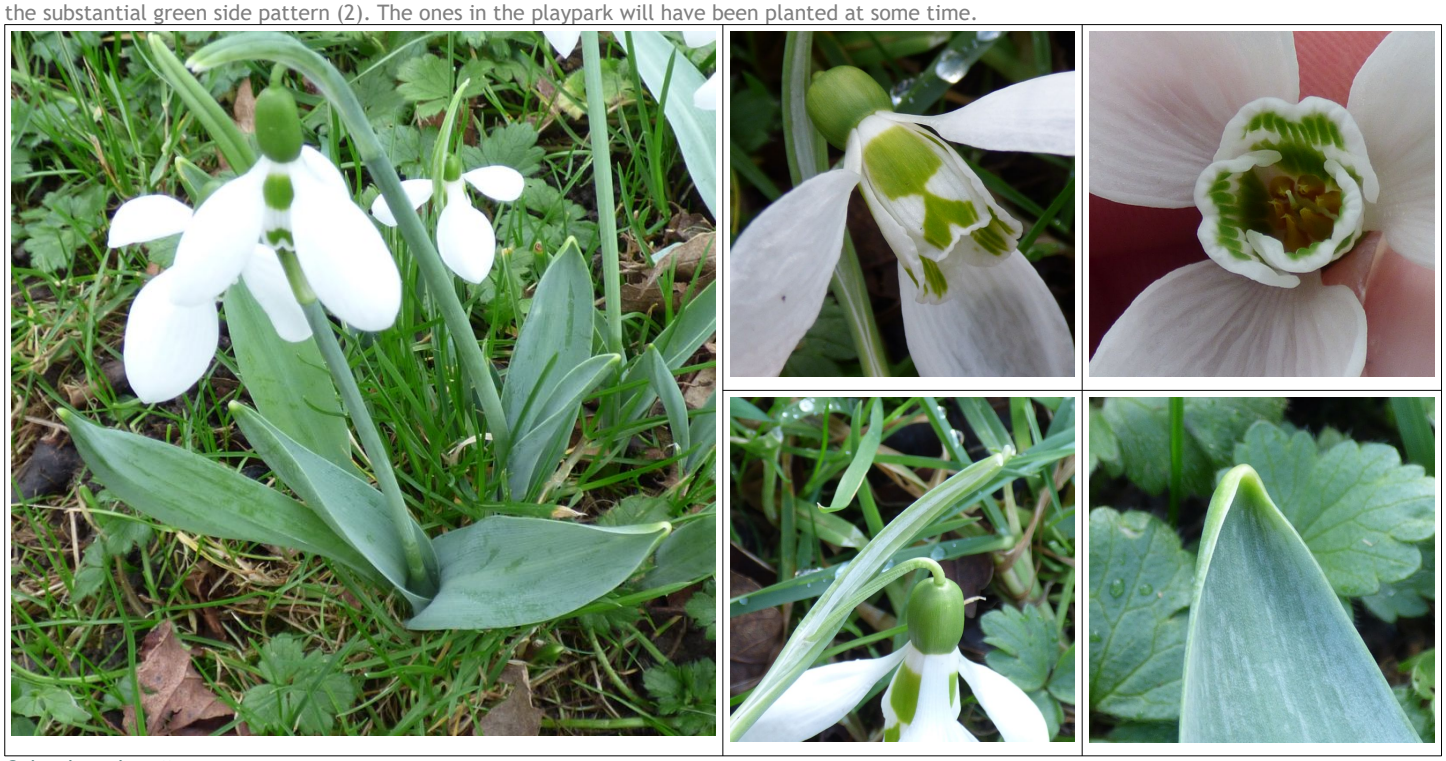
Common Snowdrop – Frequent. Prominent areas are the woodland strip beside Baird Road (4), St Mary's at Dalmahoy, a spot off Wilkieston Road. Double-flowered forms (5) are in Lidgate Wood.

These are the only wild-growing ones to be found around. Note the green side pattern (2) forms a small 'v'. Double-flowered forms (5) are a garden form. The bluish-green leaves are narrow and their colour distinguishes them from some of the narrow bright green leaves that occur at the same time such as Few-Flowered Garlic and Bluebell. Daffodils also have bluish-green leaves but they are broader and longer.

Galanthus nivalis (Galanthus nivalis f. pleniflorus for the Double Snowdrop)

Greater Snowdrop – Ratho Park Playpark (by equipment).

The bluish-green leaves (1) are wider, more reminiscent of a tulip, the leaf ends (5) are “hooded” and leaf bases (1) wrap around each other. Note the substantial green side pattern (2). The ones in the playpark will have been planted at some time.



Galanthus elwesii

Some Others

A number of other snowdrops are in common cultivation with blue-grey leaves.

- G. reginae-olgae : like Common but with a white stripe down the leaf midline.
- G. gracilis : like Common but with large petal marks (similar to Greater Snowdrop above)
- G. plicatus (Pleated Snowdrop) : like Common but with wider leaves with fold lines along.

Green-Leaved

Krasnov’s Snowdrop – Nearby Ratho near a wooded path (too rare to give location).

The inner 3 petals lack the notch that snowdrops usually have and their outer markings are just two triangles at the tip (anthers at the flower centre are pointed). Note the broad green leaves that wrap around each other at their bases but flare back; leaves not hooded at tips.

Galanthus krasnovii

Green Snowdrop – Community Centre/Nursery area planter (2018)

Bright glossy green widish leaves, short green marking on the tip of the inner petals, two blotches usually joined in a rounded arch.

Galanthus woronowii

Some Others

A number of other snowdrops are in cultivation with green leaves.

- G. ikariae – Has a large green petal mark (from the petal tip to halfway).